

# ***NEW YORK POST***

## **Congress members push to ban e-cigs from Capitol**

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WASHINGTON — New York City's crackdown on e-cigs is catching on.

A group of Democrats in Congress wants to extend the cigarette ban in the Capitol to include e-cigarettes.

The proposal mirrors New York's decision in December to treat e-cigarettes like regular smokes and prohibit them in most public places, including restaurants, bars and parks.

Electronic cigarettes produce a vapor instead of smoke, creating a loophole in the law that allowed smokers to puff away just about anywhere — until lawmakers got wind of it.

In a letter Tuesday to the House Office Building Commission and the Senate Committee on Rules, seven lawmakers acknowledged that the health risks from e-cigs are unknown.

But they argued that banning them anyway would be “an appropriate precautionary step to promote public health and maintain a safe environment for staff and visitors of the institution and its grounds.”

Traditional cigarettes are currently prohibited at the Capitol, the nearby House and Senate office buildings and within 25 feet of the entrance of those buildings.

The lawmakers are Rep. Henry Waxman (Calif.), and Sens. Dick Durbin (Ill.), Richard Blumenthal (Conn.), Sherrod Brown (Ohio), Ed Markey (Mass.), Tom Harkin (Iowa) and Barbara Boxer (Calif.).

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